

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Father John Hatcher, S.J. has worked among the Lakota in the Diocese of Rapid City for 42 years and since 2003, has served as President of the St. Francis Mission, a Jesuit ministry serving the Sicangu Lakota on the Rosebud Reservation, for the last 14 years; and,

Whereas, Father Hatcher respects the traditions of work among the Lakota which has led to more families attending Mass on a regular basis in the four parishes, increased baptisms and confirmations, and more couples seeking marriage in the church; and,

Whereas, Father Hatcher's belief in local people in leadership positions within the church has resulted in Lakota's successfully managing the Mission's programs, two recovery centers, four religious education sites and religious camps, a Suicide and Crisis Line, a dental clinic, a radio station, the Buechel Memorial Lakota Museum, and the Sapa Un Catholic Academy; and,

Whereas, Father Hatcher recognized the need for a more effective educational program based upon academic achievement, faith based, future leadership development, and the teaching of the Lakota history and language, which lead to the Sapa Un Catholic Academy opening its doors in 2013; and,

Whereas, Father Hatcher has brought a new model of mission and ministry to the Rosebud, and his belief in collaboration with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and its programs will continue and the services provided will be more effective, and his efforts have led to real and effective solutions, whose results will continue to unfold, therefore, on July 31, 2017, Father John Hatcher is retiring:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 31, 2017, as

FATHER JOHN HATCHER DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State